

CHURCHMAN'S AN EXPLANATION OF THE MAGNETIC ATLAS







538.7  
C 563  
L 790  
R.B.

PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY  
BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND



250



LOCK

A N  
E X P L A N A T I O N  
O F T H E  
M A G N E T I C A T L A S,  
O R,  
V A R I A T I O N C H A R T,  
H E R E U N T O A N N E X E D;  
P R O J E C T E D O N A P L A N  
E N T I R E L Y N E W,

BY WHICH THE MAGNETIC VARIATION ON ANY PART OF  
THE GLOBE MAY BE PRECISELY DETERMINED, FOR ANY TIME,  
PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE: AND THE VARIATION AND LATI-  
TUD E BEING ACCURATELY KNOWN, THE LONGITUDE IS  
OF CONSEQUENCE TRULY DETERMINED.

---

BY JOHN CHURCHMAN,

*Late land surveyor for the district of the counties of DELAWARE and CHESTER,  
and for part of LANCASTER and BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA.*

---

P H I L A D E L P H I A:  
PRINTED BY JAMES & JOHNSON, ON THE NORTH  
SIDE OF MARKET-STREET, BETWEEN THIRD  
AND FOURTH-STREETS.  
M, DCC, XC.

*Chr<sup>n</sup> Mayers*

C  
C  
L  
A

556.  
C 562  
1792  
P. 1.



BE it remembered, that on the seventeenth day of June, in the fourteenth year of the Independence of the United States of America, John Churchman, of the said district, hath deposited in this office, the title of a book, and the title or dedication of a chart, the right whereof he claims as Author, the title of the book being in the words following, *to wit*.

*"An Explanation of the Magnetic Atlas, or Variation Chart, hereunto annexed; projected on a plan entirely new, by which the Magnetic Variation on any part of the globe may be precisely determined, for any time, past, present, or future: and the variation and latitude being accurately known, the longitude is of consequence truly determined: By John Churchman, late land-surveyor for the district of the counties of Delaware and Chester, and for part of Lancaster and Berks, Pennsylvania;" and the title or dedication of the chart being in the words following, *to wit*:*

*"To George Washington, President of the United States of America, this Magnetic Atlas, or Variation Chart, is humbly inscribed by John Churchman:—in conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the terms therein mentioned."*

SAMUEL CALDWELL

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA, & OF ORDNANCE, PENNSYLVANIA.

PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY  
BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND



## P R E F A C E.

---

IT appears probable that one of the principal causes, why more useful discoveries are not made, is the fear of ridicule, which is sometimes the fate of projectors who promulgate new opinions, and attempt new experiments. A desire of avoiding the sarcasms of ignorance and malevolence, may suppress many useful inventions; yet we find some gradually press forward; and although, for want of encouragement, an hundred probable schemes may sink in oblivion, there will ever be some of such magnitude, in the eyes of their own inventors, that, regardless of the "*world's dread laugh,*" they will burst into day, and either go off in vapour, or remain permanent lights.

In a situation of speculative enquiry, I confess I had long continued; and in the beginning of the year 1787, I risked a declaration of my opinions before the public, apprehending I had formed a plan of much importance to navigation, confiding in their generosity to give it a candid reception, which in a great measure I was so fortunate as to obtain: and as the first principles seem at present to be universally admitted, I have the more reason to hope for further indulgence towards this little tract, which is designed

to accompany and explain the MAGNETIC ATLAS, or VARIATION CHART of all the Northern Hemisphere. If any imperfections should be found in either of them, the reader is respectfully solicited to supply the defect; and I trust, notwithstanding, under a conviction that they will do no *injury* to mankind, they may at least obtain for me their pardon, if not their thanks for my intention of rendering them a *service*. And yet, I must acknowledge, that, in pursuing this subject, I considered it also as an object of emolument, although in this respect I have done nothing more, than to accept the invitation held out by many Governments, with promises of a generous reward, to engage persons in the public service.

Having premised thus much, I shall, in the following treatise, proceed to describe, in a more particular manner, the elements of a system, which, I apprehend, attains to the actual and complete *Discovery of the LONGITUDE*.

This indeed is a subject which, hitherto, has generally excited a smile, whenever attempted; yet I have risked *that*, for the public good.

The variation of the compass, and its heretofore (imagined) uncertain laws, have long engaged the attention of philosophers. Why it should change, and become at one time *slow*, at another time *quick*, now *stationary*, and then *retrograde*, has puzzled the enquirer. These have long been subjects of observation; yet I have never heard that any regular system has hitherto been published, to account for or foretell, upon any rational plan, what will be the future move-

ments of this wonderful phenomenon, the magnetic influence. Whether my attempts to reconcile all these difficulties, and, of consequence, to build on them a certain system of longitude, will prove successful, or not, must be left to the world to judge.

The proposed problems may be solved by the magnetic atlas alone, without an accurate knowledge of the magnetic elements; but as the elements result from a multitude of observations, reflections, and deductions, and are the leading principles on which the chart is constructed, perhaps an explanation of them may not be unacceptable. They will appear in the first chapter, and will, no doubt, be found easy and intelligible, but more especially to all those who have in the least degree applied themselves to the study of spherical geometry, or the use of the globes.

As the introduction of a number of new terms appeared absolutely necessary, the liberty taken in this respect will be deemed pardonable.

## Subscribers Names come to hand.

**T**I TLES are considered as being of several kinds: 1<sup>st</sup>, Such as are merely epithetical; 2<sup>d</sup>, the usual names of office; 3<sup>d</sup>, appendages, &c. In a republican government, it is hoped that none in the following list will be offended at the omission of the former, especially as the personage to whom the Magnetic Atlas is addressed has generally no other title than that of President of the United States. Were there a conformity to custom, those distinguished characters would have the corresponding epithets prefixed, † Right Reverend, ‡ Reverend, § His Excellency, \* Honourable; those marked || are members of the American Philosophical Society.

### A

- § John Adams, Esq; L. L. D. Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.
- ||† John Andrews, D. D. Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, in the College and Academy of Philadelphia.
- Captain William Atkinson.
- Captain Ashmead.
- Richard Adams.
- John Adlum, Esq.
- John Arndt, Esq.
- ||† Burgess Allison, A. M. Director of the Academy at Bordentown.
- J. Allibone.

### B

- \* Theodorick Bland, Esq; M. H. R. Congress.
- \* Ædanus Burke, Esq; M. H. R. Congress.
- \* Daniel Broadhead, Esq; Surveyor General of Pennsylvania.
- || William Barton, Esq; Counsellor at Law.
- || Benjamin Smith Barton, M. D. Professor of Natural History and Botany, in the College of Philadelphia.
- \* Charles Biddle, Esq; President of the Marine Society, and late Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.
- Hilary Baker, Esq; one of the Aldermen of the city of Philadelphia.
- \* Lord Butler, Member of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.
- \* William Bingham, Esq;

### C

- † John Carroll, D. D. Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.
- \* Jeremiah T. Chase, Esq; of the Council in Maryland.
- \* Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq; Senator of the United States.
- § George Clinton, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief of New-York.
- \* Benjamin Contee, Esq; M. H. R. Congress.
- \* Isaac Coles, Esq; M. H. R. Congress.
- \* Lewis Le Couteulx, Esq; Member of the National Assembly at Paris.
- \* Samuel Chase, Esq; Gabriel Christie, Esq. Skipwith Coale.

Philip Coale.  
 Captain Joseph Caulke.  
 Ambrose Clark.  
 James Campbell.  
 Major William Crane.  
 Matthew Cary, Printer.  
 James Galbraith.  
 Alexander Christie.  
 Francis Childs and John Swaine.  
 Samuel Coates.  
 Richard Collies.  
 Marmaduke Cooper.  
 David Hayfield Conyngham.  
 James Chapman  
 || Matthew Clarkson, Esq; one of  
   the Aldermen of Philadelphia.  
 Thomas Canby.  
 || John Chapman, Esq; Member of  
   the General Assembly of Penn-  
   sylvania.  
 Christopher Colles.  
 George Campbell, Esq; Register  
   for the Probate of Wills, Phila-  
   delphia.  
 George Churchman, junior.

**D**  
 ||\* Le Chevalier D'Anemoours, French  
   Consul for Maryland and Vir-  
   ginia.  
 || Sharp Delany, Esq; Collector of  
   the Customs at Philadelphia.  
 || Henry Drinker, Esq; one of the  
   Common Council of Philadelphia.  
 + William Duke.  
 John Dunkin,  
 William Dean.

**E**  
 || Andrew Ellicott, Esq;  
 John Ellicott.  
 Samuel Earle, Esq; Counsellor at  
   Law.  
 Thomas Elliott, Esq;  
 Griffiths Evans, Esq;  
 Joseph Evans.

**F**  
 || Benjamin Franklin, L. L. D.  
   F. R. S. late Patron and Presi-  
   dent of the American Philoso-  
   phical Society, &c. &c.  
 || Miers Fisher, Esq; Counsellor at  
   Law.  
 || George Fox, Esq;

James C. and Samuel W. Fisher.  
 Joseph Few.  
 \* William Findly, Esq; Member of  
   the Supreme Executive Council  
   of Pennsylvania.  
 John Fitch.  
 Christian Febiger, Esq; State  
   Treasurer for Pennsylvania.

**G**  
 || Don Diego de Gardoqui, Pleni-  
   potentiary Encargado de Nego-  
   cios of his Catholic Majesty.  
 \* Amos Gregg, Esq; Member of  
   the Supreme Executive Council  
   of Pennsylvania.  
 Frederick Green, Esq;  
 John Lee Gibson, Esq; Prothono-  
   tary of Harford county, Mary-  
   land.  
 Albert Gallatin, Esq; member of  
   the State Convention, Pennsylva-  
   nia.  
 William Goddard.  
 Daniel Grant.  
 Dr Reuben Gilder.  
 Benjamin Griffith,  
 Thomas Gregg,  
 Joshua Gilpin,  
 Gurney & Smith.  
 George and Robert Gray.

**H**  
 \* Alexander Hamilton, Esq; Secre-  
   tary of the Treasury.  
 Thomas Harwood, Esq; Treasurer  
   of the Western Shore, Maryland.  
 \* Daniel Heister, Esq; M. H. R.  
   Congress.  
 || Michael Hillegas, Esq; late Tre-  
   asurer of the United States.  
 \* Benedict Hall, Esq; late Senator  
   in Maryland.  
 Col. Joseph Caryl Hall.  
 \* Samuel Hughes, Esq; of the Se-  
   nate of Maryland.  
 Col. Henry Hollingsworth,  
 \* Henry Hill, Esq; late Member of  
   the Supreme Executive Council  
   of Pennsylvania.  
 Col. Stephen Hyland.  
 Joseph Hancock, of London.  
 || Dr. Robert Harris.  
 Ashton Humphreys, Esq; Coun-  
   sellor at Law.

James Harford, Bristol, Great-Britain.

Patrick Hamilton, Esq.

Thomas Hall, Esq.

Daniel Humphreys.

John Hayes.

Harrifon and Purdy.

Reading Howell.

Levi Hollingsworth.

Zebulon Hollingsworth, sen.

John Hills, late an officer in the British army

Michael Hedrick.

Thomas Howard.

I

\* John Jay, Esq; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and late Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

||\* Thomas Jefferson, Esq; Secretary of State, late Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of France.

\* Samuel Johnson, L. L. D. President of Columbia College, and Member of the Senate of Congress.

Thomas Jennings, Esq; Counsellor at Law.

† John Ireland, Director of the Academy in Harford county.

|| Francis Johnson, Esq; Receiver General of the Land Office, Pennsylvania.

|| Joseph James. Doctor David Jackson.

|| Jared Ingersoll, Esq; Counsellor at Law.

Owen Jones, junior.

George James.

Benjamin Johnson.

K

John Kemp, L. L. D. Professor of Mathematics, in Columbia College, New-York.

\* John Kilty, Esq; of the Council of Maryland

\* Christopher Kucher, Esq; Member of the Supreme Executive Council, Pennsylvania.

\* David Kennedy, Esq; Secretary of Land Office, Pennsylvania.

Solomon Kitt, of Germany.

Captain Archibald Kerr.

Joseph Kirkbride, Esq.  
Shepard Kollock.

Abraham Kintzing.

William Kersey, Land Surveyor, York county, Pennsylvania.

John Kaighn, Esq.

L

\* Thomas Sim Lee, Esq; some time Governor of Maryland.

P. Letherbury, Counsellor and Professor of Law, Washington College.

\* Edward Langworthy, Esq.

Thomas Lloyd, Esq; Counsellor at Law.

Robert Lewis.

George Latimer, Esq.

James Logan, Esq.

Captain Henry Lisle.

Maurice Lisle, Esq. Tortola.

Ebenezer Large.

Mordecai Lewis.

Moses Levy, Esq; Counsellor at Law

M

||§ Thomas Mifflin, Esq; President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

§ Le Comte de Moustier, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Court of France.

\* Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Esq; Speaker of the House of Representatives.

||\* James Madison, Esq; M. H. R. Congress.

||\* Thomas M'Kean, Esq; L. L. D. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

||\* Samuel Miles, Esq; Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, and member of the Supreme Executive Council.

|| Walter Minto, L. L. D. Professor of Mathematics, Princeton College

\* James Martin, Esq; Member of the Supreme Executive Council Pennsylvania.

John F Mercer, Esq; Counsellor at Law.

Christian Mayer, of Gottingen,

Luther Martin, Esq; Attorney General of the State of Maryland.  
 Thomas May, Esq; Burgess for the Borough of Wilmington.  
 David M'Mechen, Esq; Counselor at Law.  
 Major Alexander M'Caskey.  
 George Meade, Esq.  
 Charles Moore, M. D.  
 John Morris, M. D.  
 Richard Morris, Esq.  
 Magnus Miller  
 Archibald M'Call.  
 Benjamin Mason.  
 Major Edward Moyston.  
 Thomas Millard.  
 Jonathan Miller.  
 George Mann.  
 John Morton.  
 Benjamin R. Morgan, Esq; Attorney at Law.  
 Benjamin Morgan.  
 Thomas Mendenhall.  
 Christopher Marshal, jun.  
 Captain William Marshall, New-York.

## N

John Nicholson, Esq; Comptroller General of Pennsylvania.  
 John Nancarrow.  
 John Maxwell Nesbitt, Esq; one of the Aldermen of Philadelphia.  
 Philip Nicklin.  
 Alexander Nesbitt.

## O

+ William Otterbine.  
 Laurence O'Neale, Esq; Member of the General Assembly, Maryland.  
 Thomas Owings, Esq; Baltimore County.  
 Col Eleazer Oswald.

## P

\* William Patterson, Esq; Senator of Congress.  
 ||\* John Page, Esq; M. H. R. Congress.  
 \* Josiah Parker, Esq; M. H. R. Congress.

\* George Plater, Esq; President of Senate and State Convention of Maryland.  
 || Samuel Powel, Esq; late Mayor of the city of Philadelphia.  
 Baron vonnitz.  
 Ignatius Browne Palyart.  
 \* Zebulon Potts, Esq; Member of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.  
 || James Pemberton, Esq; one of the Common Council of Philadelphia.  
 John Pemberton.  
 || Edward Pennington, Esq.  
 George Palmer, Esq; Land Surveyor.  
 || Charles W Peale.  
 Robert Edge Pine.  
 John Peadle, M. D. F. L. R.  
 M Peadle.  
 Isaac Price.  
 Stephen Page.  
 Thomas Paschal.  
 Captain William Pell.

## R

+ John Rodgers, D. D. New-York.  
 || Thomas Ruston, M. D.  
 + William Rogers, A. M. Professor of English and Oratory in the College of Philadelphia.  
 ||\* David Redick, Esq; late a Member of the Supreme Executive Council, and of the State Convention, Pennsylvania.  
 George Roberts, Esq; one of the Aldermen of the city of Philadelphia, and a Member of the State Convention.  
 James Read, Esq.  
 Colonel John Rogers, Maryland.  
 William Rogers, New-York.  
 Rundle & Murgatroyd.  
 Rice & Co Bookellers and Stationers.

## S

§ William Smallwood, Esq; late Governor and Commander in Chief of Maryland.  
 ||+ Samuel Stanhope Smith, D. D. Vice President of the College of New Jersey.  
 Major General the Baron Steuben.

## B

- \* Thomas Scott, Esq; M. A. Congress.
- \* Abraham Smith, Esq; Member of the Supreme Executive Council Pennsylvania.
- Doctor Benjamin Say, F. C. P. P.
- || Jonathan Bayard Smith, Esq; late Prothonotary of the city and county of Philadelphia.
- Captain William B. Smith.
- Captain Clement Skerrett.
- Captain James Service.
- Daniel Sheridane.
- Richard Stockton, Esq.
- William Spotswood, Printer and Bookseller.
- Jonathan Sellman.
- Joseph Shotwell.
- Thomas Seddons, Printer and Bookseller.
- Thomas Shields.
- John Strawbridge, Esq.
- Abraham Shoemaker.
- James Story.
- Doctor — Sparhawk.
- Snowden & North.
- Doctor Andrew Spence.

## T

- \* Thomas Tudor Tucker, Esq; M. A. Congress.
- Sir John Temple, Bart. Consul from Great-Britain.
- || William Thornton, M. D.
- Richard S. Thomas.
- Philip Thomas, Rockland Farm.
- John Todd, Esq; Counsellor at Law.
- John Thomson.
- James Trenchard.
- Samuel Willinghurst.
- Jacob Tyson.
- Evan W. Thomas, Student at Law.

## V.

- \* Adrian Valck, Esq; Consul of the United Netherlands, in Maryland, &c.

General J. A. Varnum.  
Col. Gabriel Peterson Vanhorn.  
Charles Van Couver.  
Henry Voight.

U  
Thomas B. Ulster,

W  
† William White, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania.  
† William West, B. D.  
Alexander Wilcox, Esq; Recorder of the city of Philadelphia.  
General Otho Holland Williams, Collector of the Customs at Baltimore.  
Col. John Weems, Calvert county, Maryland.  
Turbutt Wright, Esq; Counsellor at Law.  
Baruck Williams, Esq; Prothonotary of Cecil county, Maryland.  
Charles C. White, Esq; Attorney at Law.

Captain M. Willing.  
Captain Willet.  
John Wilson.  
Lewis Walker.  
John Warder.  
John Wilcox.  
Samuel Wallis, Esq;  
Amos Wickersham.  
Jesse & Robert Waln.  
Israel Wheeling, Esq; one of the Common Council.  
Charles Wharton.  
Isaac Wharton.

Y  
William Young, Printer & Bookseller.

# C O N T E N T S.

## C H A P. I.

*Elements of Magnetism.*

## C H A P. II.

*Solution of several Problems.*

## C H A P. III.

*The Objection of false Variation removed.*

## C H A P. IV.

*Concerning the Construction of the Magnetic Atlas.*

## C H A P. V.

*On the Nature of the Magnetic Orbits and Magnetic Meridians.*

## C H A P. VI.

*Concerning the Materials from which the Coasts were laid down.*

## C H A P. VII.

*Concerning the Southern Hemisphere, the Magnetic Almanac, &c.*

## C H A P. VIII.

*Hints concerning the Cause of the Magnetic Variation.*

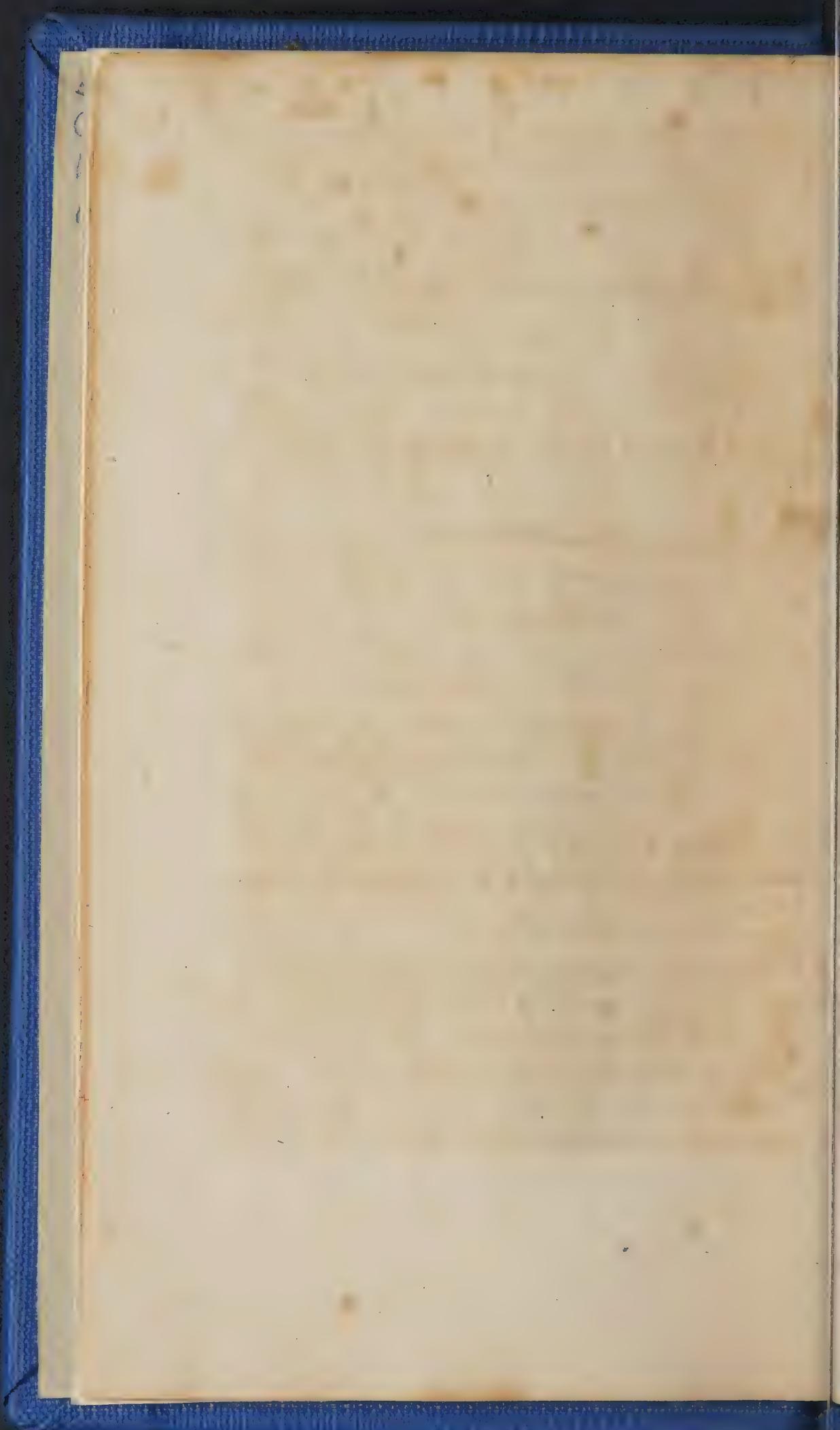
## C H A P. IX.

*The Method of proving the Revolutions of the two Magnetic Points.*

## C H A P. X.

*On the Magnetic Tides.*

*Tables. Appendix.*



A N  
EXPLANATION  
OF THE  
MAGNETIC ATLAS,  
OR  
VARIATION CHART, &c.

---

CHAP. I.

*Elements of Magnetism.*

Proposition I. FROM a multitude of observations on the Magnetic Variation, in different parts of the world at places whose situations have been well determined, it is found that the magnetic horizontal needle hath an universal direction towards two points on the surface of the globe, at certain distances, one from the north, the other from the south Pole of the earth.

Definition I. One of the points towards which the magnetic needle hath a direction, being in the northern hemisphere (for distinction) may be called the *northern magnetic point*.

Def. II. As the other magnetic point is at a certain distance from the south pole of the

earth, it may be termed the southern magnetic point.

*Note.* The northern magnetic point on the chart is distinguished by Z.

Prop. II. *The northern magnetic point, in the beginning of the year 1777, was in about the latitude of  $76^{\circ} 4'$  north, and longitude  $90^{\circ} 58'$  west, from Greenwich.*

Prop. III. *The situation of the southern magnetic point, in the year 1777, I calculated to have been in even numbers in  $72^{\circ}$  south latitude, and  $140^{\circ}$  east longitude from Greenwich.*

*Postulate.* As on a plain a circle can be drawn through any three points, not in a direct line; so, on the surface of a globe, a circle or curve may be drawn through any three points whatever.

Prop. IV. *A circle drawn through three points on the surface of a globe, if the plane of the said circle passes through the centre of the globe, will be a great circle.*

Prop. V. *If through three points on the surface of a globe a circle be drawn, whose plane passes not through the centre of the earth; it will be a lesser circle.*

Def. III. A magnetic meridian is a curve drawn from one magnetic point to the other, through any given part of the globe.

Def. IV. A meridian of the earth is here understood to be a semicircle, although this term is also sometimes applied to a great circle.

**Def. V.** The angle between a meridian of the earth, and the magnetic meridian, is the variation of the compass.

**Prop. VI.** Although the length of the mean time taken by the sun from its departure from, until its return again to any one meridian of the earth, is well known to be just twenty-four hours, yet the mean time of the rotation of the earth on its axis from west to east is determined and known to be  $23^{\text{h}}\ 56^{\text{m}}\ 4^{\text{s}}$ .

**Prop. VII.** The two magnetic points have a perpetual motion, and also perform revolutions round the two poles of the earth, from west to east, as pointed out in the tables of their different situations; the northern one quicker, and the southern slower than the earth.

**Def. VI.** The time in which either magnetic point revolves round the pole of the earth, from a conjunction with any fixed star, until its return to the same again, may be termed its sidereal revolution.

**Def. VII.** The time which either magnetic point requires from its leaving any one meridian of the earth, until its return to the same again, may be termed its periodical revolution.

**Prop. VIII.** The sidereal revolution of the northern magnetic point is  $23^{\text{h}}\ 55^{\text{m}}\ 55^{\text{s}}\ 48^{\text{m}}\ 50^{\text{s}}$ , and its periodical revolution  $426^{\text{y}}\ 77^{\text{d}}\ 9^{\text{h}}$ .

**Prop. IX.** The sidereal revolution of the southern magnetic point is  $23^{\text{h}}\ 56^{\text{m}}\ 4^{\text{s}}\ 8^{\text{m}}$ , and its periodical revolution  $545^{\text{y}}$  years, or thereabouts.

**Prop. X.** *The two magnetic points are sometimes on the same meridian of the earth; sometimes on opposite meridians, and sometimes on neither.*

**Prop. XI.** *Whenever the two magnetic points are either on the same or on opposite meridians of the earth, then those meridians and the line of no-variation coincide with each other.*

**Note.** By the tables we find that in the year 1832 the southern magnetic point will be  $136^{\circ} 22'$  east from Greenwich, and in the year 1833 the northern magnetic point will be  $43^{\circ} 40'$  west from the same meridian, the sum of these numbers is  $180^{\circ} 2'$ . Therefore, as any two opposite meridians are always  $180^{\circ}$  asunder, the two magnetic points about this time will be on opposite meridians. Then will the line of no variation be a meridian of the earth, when the calculation will be much more simple.

**Def. VIII.** The line of no-variation is a line drawn through the different parts of the globe where the magnetic needle points due north.

**Note.** The line of no-variation is distinguished on the magnetic atlas by a broken curve line, one part of which is now to the westward of Philadelphia.

**Prop. XII.** *The line of no-variation changes its place, as the two magnetic points change their places.*

**Prop. XIII.** *The line of no-variation alters its curvature, in proportion to the different positions of the two magnetic points.*

Prop. XIV. Whenever the two magnetic points are neither on the same nor on opposite meridians of the earth, then those parts, where some of the magnetic meridians coincide with other parts of different meridians of the earth, will be the line of no-variation.

Axiom. If the two magnetic points were at equal distances from the two poles of the earth, and on opposite meridians, they would be diametrically opposite to each other.

Prop. XV. If the two magnetic points were diametrically opposite to each other, all the magnetic meridians would be semi-circles.

Prop. XVI. As the two magnetic points are neither at equal distances from the two poles of the earth, nor at present on opposite meridians, they are not diametrically opposite to each other: And,

Prop. XVII. As the two magnetic points are not diametrically opposite to each other, none of the magnetic meridians, except two, are arches of great circles.

Def. IX. A circle drawn every way equally distant from and between the two magnetic poles, magnetic points, or magnetic nadirs, will be the magnetic equator.

Note. The magnetic equator is distinguished in the chart by a line passing through the Indian Ocean, between the Islands of Ceylon and Sumatra.

Def. X. A point diametrically opposite the

southern magnetic point, may be termed the *northern magnetic nadir*.

*Note.* The northern magnetic nadir on the chart is distinguished by the letter W.

*Def. XI.* A point diametrically opposite the northern magnetic point, may be termed the *southern magnetic nadir*.

*Prop. XVIII.* Although the plane of the only two magnetic meridians, which are arches of great circles, is continually changing, yet the magnetic points, the magnetic poles, and magnetic nadirs, are always in the plane of the same.

*Prop. XIX.* The magnetic equator divides the globe into two equal parts.

*Axiom. I.* Every circle dividing the globe into two equal parts, is a great circle.

*Axiom II.* Every great circle has two poles.

*Axiom III.* The two poles of every great circle are diametrically opposite to each other.

*Corollary.* Hence the two magnetic poles being distinct from the two magnetic points, which influence the direction of the needle, are nothing more than the poles of the magnetic equator.

*Note.* The northern magnetic pole is distinguished in the chart by the letter X.

*Def. XII.* A right line drawn from one magnetic point to the other, may be called the *magnetic pointer-axis*.

*Def. XIII.* A right line drawn from one magnetic pole to the other, may be termed the *magnetic polar-axis*.

*Def. XIV.* A right line drawn from one magnetic nadir to the other, may be called the *magnetic nadir-axis*.

*Prop. XX.* *The magnetic polar-axis, and no other, passes through the center of the earth.*

*Prop. XXI.* *The magnetic polar-axis is equally distant from and between the magnetic pointer-axis and magnetic nadir-axis, all of which are parallel to each other.*

*Prop. XXII.* *As the two magnetic points are not diametrically opposite to each other, the distance between the magnetic points and the magnetic equator, is different on different sides of the globe ; but,*

*Prop. XXIII.* *The distance between the magnetic poles and the magnetic equator is always equal on every side of the globe.*

*Prop. XXIV.* *As the two magnetic points move with unequal velocities, the distance between the magnetic pole and the magnetic point undergoes a continual alteration.*

*Prop. XXV.* *As the distance between the magnetic points and the magnetic poles increase, so all the magnetic meridians which are not arches of great circles decrease.*

*Def. XV.* As the magnetic equator divides the globe into two equal parts, for distinction, one

half may be called the *northern*, and the other the *southern magnetic hemisphere*.

Prop. XXVI. In each magnetic hemisphere, the magnetic pole is at any given time equally distant from the magnetic point and the magnetic nadir.

Def. XVI. Those two points at the intersection of the magnetic equator, and the equator of the earth, may be termed the *magnetic equinoctial points*.

Prop. XXVII. The two magnetic equinoctial points are diametrically opposite to each other.

Prop. XXVIII. The distance between the magnetic pole and the pole of the earth, in either hemisphere, is equal to the angle at either magnetic equinoctial point, formed by the magnetic equator and the equator of the earth.

Prop. XXIX. Whenever the line of no-variation is the same with a meridian of the earth, if bisected by the magnetic pointer-axis, it also represents the only two magnetic meridians, which are arches of great circles.

Def. XVII. The dipping-needle is a magnetic needle suspended on a pin, passing through its centre in a horizontal direction.

Axiom. Magnetic powers of equal force have equal influence, at equal distances.

Corol. I. As the magnetic equator is equally distant from each magnetic point, if the dipping-needle

stood horizontal on the magnetic equator, the influence of each magnetic point would be equal.

Corol. II. If the influence of each magnetic point were equal, the magnetic meridians would be all circular curves.

Corol. III. If the magretic meridians were all circular curves, they might be considered as parts of regular polygons of an infinite number of sides, and the horizontal magnetic needle would always represent one of those sides.

Corol. IV. If those magnetic meridians which are not arches of great circles, be circular curves or not, the horizontal magnetic needle will make always a tangent to the magnetic meridian.

Prop. XXX. In the northern magnetic hemisphere the dipping-needle gives the north dip, and in the southern the south dip, proportionally to the distance from the place where it stands horizontal.

Prop. XXXI. The magnetic equator, as well as those two magnetic meridians, which are arches of great circles, continually changes its place.

Def. XVIII. If on a globe a number of circles be drawn parallel to the magnetic equator, they may be termed parallels of magnetic Latitude.

Prop. XXXII. If any one magnetic meridian be calculated as a great circle, which is not such, the difference of the angle of magnetic variation between the calculation and actual observation will be proportioned to the magnetic latitude.

Prop. XXXIII. If, in the same parallel of magnetic latitude, any number of magnetic meridians be calculated as great circles, which are not such, the difference of magnetic variation between the calculation and observation will be proportioned to the number of degrees on the magnetic equator, computed from its intersection with one of the two magnetic meridians, which are arches of great circles.

Def. XIX. Spherical Trigonometry is that science which teaches how to calculate the parts of triangles formed on the surface of a sphere, by three arches of great circles.

Note. The lesser circles of the sphere, by different authors on this subject, have heretofore been declared not to fall under trigonometrical calculation, not only because they are of different magnitudes, or that they have not the same radius as the great circles; but also, because their planes do not necessarily cut one and the same axis, nor pass through the centre of the sphere.

Corol. Hence as, by the present method, lesser circles of the sphere are calculated, as well as great circles, a new branch of science is obtained.

## C H A P. II.

*Solution of several Problems.*

## P R O B L E M I.

*Given,* the situation of the place.

*Required,* the variation of the compass for any time past, present, or future.

**F**IND first the place of both the magnetic points, by the tables; secondly, draw a curve from one magnetic point to the other, through the given place; this curve will be the magnetic meridian, and the contained angle between the magnetic meridian, thus drawn, and the meridian of the earth at the given place, is the variation of the compass for that time.

## E X A M P L E.

For the time to which the chart is fitted, it is required to know the variation of the compass in latitude  $44^{\circ} 30'$  north, and longitude  $170^{\circ}$  east from Greenwich.

First find where this meridian and parallel of latitude meet on the chart, then trace those two meridians slightly with a pencil, from the intersection, the length of the radius of the circle from which the line of chords is constructed, that they may be better distinguished.

Secondly, measure the angle between the meridian of the earth and the magnetic meridian, or between the black line and dotted line, which is the same thing, which angle is 20 degrees: and

as the dotted line runs here to the eastward of the black line, the variation is consequently 20 degrees east.

*Note.* Efface with a rubber the mark made by the pencil, that the chart may not be injured.

#### P R O B L E M II.

*Given,* the variation of the compass, and latitude.

*Required,* the longitude.

Find what is the angle of variation at the intersection of the desired meridian and parallel of latitude, and when the observation of the variation is equal to the variation on the chart, the ship must be in the longitude required.

#### E X A M P L E I.

A ship sailing in the latitude of  $50^{\circ}$  north, on a voyage from Philadelphia to London, it is required to know when she is within twenty degrees of the meridian of Greenwich. In measuring the angle on the chart between the twentieth meridian from Greenwich and the magnetic meridian, in the latitude of  $50^{\circ}$  north, it is found to be  $22^{\circ} 20'$  west: so that when the accurate observer finds  $22^{\circ} 20'$  west variation in the latitude of  $50^{\circ}$  north, he knows himself to be  $20^{\circ}$  west from the meridian of Greenwich.

#### E X A M P L E II.

A ship is bound from Philadelphia to Lisbon, and is sailing in the latitude of  $40^{\circ}$  north; it is

required to know when she is within 15 degrees of the meridian of Greenwich : the angle between the black and dotted lines is measured at the intersection of the fortieth degree of latitude, and the fifteenth meridian from Greenwich ; this angle is found to be  $19^{\circ} 10'$ ; therefore, when the variation is  $19^{\circ} 10'$  west in the latitude of  $40^{\circ}$  north, the observer must consequently be within fifteen degrees of the meridian of Greenwich ; and as Lisbon is  $8^{\circ} 52'$  west from Greenwich, if this is subtracted from  $15^{\circ}$ , it gives  $6^{\circ} 8'$  for the longitude of the place of observation west from Lisbon.

## P R O B L E M III.

To find the situation of those two magnetic meridians, which alone are arches of great circles for any given time :

Find first the place of the magnetic points by the tables, for the time required ; secondly, find either of the two magnetic nadirs which are opposite to the two magnetic points ; thirdly, draw a circle through these three points, and this will always be a great circle : fourthly, bisect this great circle with the magnetic axis, which is a right line passing from one magnetic point to the other, and these two parts will represent those only two magnetic meridians which are arches of great circles for any given time,

## E X A M P L E.

For the beginning of the year 1794 (the time for which the chart is constructed) we find, by

D

the tables, that the northern magnetic point will be  $76^{\circ} 37' 17''$  west from Greenwich, and that in the year 1792 the southern magnetic point will be  $139^{\circ}$  east from the same meridian: as the southern magnetic point alters its place by slow degrees, two years will make but a small difference. Then seeing it is self-evident that two opposite meridians are always  $180^{\circ}$  apart, because  $139^{\circ}$  added to  $41^{\circ}$  are equal to  $180^{\circ}$ , the northern magnetic nadir must be  $41^{\circ}$  west from Greenwich, and the same distance from the equator as the southern magnetic point; therefore, a circle drawn through the northern magnetic point Z, the northern magnetic nadir W, and the southern magnetic point, will be a great circle; and if this circle is bisected by the magnetic axis, these two parts will be the only two magnetic meridians which are to be arches of great circles for that time.

#### P R O B L E M IV.

To find the situation of the magnetic equator for any given time:

Find first the situation of those two magnetic meridians which are arches of great circles for the time required, by the last problem; secondly, find a point in one of those magnetic meridians which are arches of great circles, half way between the magnetic point and magnetic nadir; this will be the magnetic pole: thirdly, draw a circle every way  $90^{\circ}$  distant from the magnetic pole, which will be a great circle, and will be the magnetic equator.

## E X A M P L E.

The northern magnetic pole is distinguished on the chart by the letter X; and if a great circle is drawn every way  $90^{\circ}$  distant from X, it will pass between the islands of Ceylon and Sumatra, and will be the magnetic equator for that time, as will appear by the name thereof on the chart.



## C H A P. III.

*The Objection of false Variation removed.*

**I**F occasion should require, it will be very easy to compare the Magnetic Atlas with Captain Cooke's observations; and although the agreement may not be exact, this will be accounted for, from several causes: First, the variation of the compass at the same place being subject to change, the length of time between Cooke's last observations, and the time for which the Magnetic Atlas is constructed, will cause a considerable difference: Secondly, notwithstanding Captain Cooke, and the officers who bore him company, were possessed of very great abilities in the line of their profession,---perhaps, neither the variation of the needle, nor the situation of the place where it was observed, was at all times truly determined. The principal cause of false variation has been, with great reason, attributed to the influence which the iron on board the ship has over the magnetic needle: it was, therefore, natural to consider, how this main objection

might be overcome. The following method has been found, by actual observation and experiment, to have the desired effect :

It is nothing more than fixing a true meridian on the shore, out of the reach of the attraction of iron : here the variation is taken by different compasses on this meridian ; and if they are all true, they give the same variation at the same time and place ; then, before the ship sails, the variation is taken on board, having the ship turned, if occasion should require, on every point of the compass ; and, by noting the difference between the true variation on the true meridian, and the false variation on board, a table of difference may be constructed, which perhaps will always give the allowance necessary to be made for false variation, throughout any voyage.

It is well known, that on land there is no difficulty in determining the longitude by Jupiter's satellites : if the true situation of any coast, and the situation of the magnetic points for any given time, are known, it is easy to find the true variation by calculation ; so that if bodies of iron ore upon the sea shore should even influence the needle, the difference between the variation by calculation and observation will consequently be the allowance for false variation : By this method the variation may be very easily corrected, with a little care.

Sometimes the variation by amplitude has been different from that by azimuth : this difficulty appears to be removed in a very satisfactory man-

ner in Professor Van Swinden's letter, published in the appendix, to which I must beg leave to refer.



## C H A P. IV.

### *Concerning the Construction of the Magnetic Atlas.*

THE main object in view, has been, to prove the principles of the plan; and, as most of the places from which the proofs are drawn, are computed from the meridian of Greenwich, I have also called this the first meridian; supposing, the observations could be compared with less trouble on the present chart, which is constructed in such a manner, that, if the blank gores were cut out, the remainder would fit and cover half a globe, forty-eight inches in circumference. These blank spaces, as they become very narrow in the latitude of sixty, were made to terminate in that degree; whereas, if they had been continued to the pole of the earth, the chart would, consequently, have been more correct.

Moreover, this method of projecting the sphere with the magnetic meridians, will perhaps, upon inspection, be found to shew the proportions of each country, as well as the nature of the curves formed by the magnetic meridians, better than upon Mercator's projection, on which the Hallean lines are delineated. As the present projection may serve not only for a chart, but for covering globes, if occasion should require.

## C H A P. V.

*On the Nature of the Magnetic Orbits and Magnetic Meridians.*

BY the tables of the places of the two magnetic points, they are represented to have an equable and uniform motion; the orbits are likewise described on the chart to be circular; but, as the antient magnetic observations seldom appear so correct as could be desired, --if future experience should prove them to be in any degree elliptical, the progress of the magnetic points, therein, will probably be precisely conformable thereto. All the earth's meridians are distinguished by black lines, and the magnetic meridians by dotted lines. The magnetic meridians are all projected as circular curves, although, as demonstrated in the magnetic elements, none except two are arches of great circles. If future experience should even prove that the influence of one magnetic point should be greater than that of the other, which seems in some degree to be the case, as this proportion will be better established by a little more experience, there appears not the least doubt but they will always be included within the most rigid rules of calculation: had the encouragement been sufficient, it would have been highly necessary that the scale on which the work was laid should have been considerably larger in proportion to the radius of the circle, on which the line of chords is constructed; for if the radius of this circle had been shorter than is delineated on the corner of the magnetic atlas, there would have been an

Inconveniency ; as the odd minutes of magnetic variation could not have been measured with so much exactness : therefore I have constructed the lines of chords, sines, tangents, &c. by a circle, whose radius is two inches, being the same length as those on Gunter's scale. But if any causes should occasion, on the chart, the angle at the place of observation between the magnetic meridian and the meridian of the earth to measure more or less to the northward than the southward, a mean is recommended to be taken for the true variation.

## C H A P. VI.

*Concerning the Materials from which the Coasts were laid down.*

IT is generally allowed, that the greatest danger in navigation, is near the coast of a country : On this account, every coast should be laid down with the greatest care. I hold myself under many obligations, for the assistance which I have had from the works of many of the most able geographers and modern circumnavigators, whose labours have been of infinite service in this undertaking ; as well on the coasts of the old world, as of the new discoveries : but, as they have also been obliged, in many instances, to depend on the observations of their predecessors,---I hope not to be blamed on this account ; as this indulgence is universally allowable. The Magnetic Atlas may therefore be said to be composed, not only from my own knowledge in

America, but also from a collection of many works of the best authority, and from the most accurate astronomical observations: yet, if any errors should be incorporated therein, they will be best rectified by future experience.



## C H A P. VII.

### *Concerning the Southern Hemisphere, the Magnetic Almanac, &c.*

IT appears to be a matter of the most consequence, to publish, first, the Northern Hemisphere, as it is navigated much more than the southern; and the truth and utility of this chart will the sooner be brought to the test. However, I have also in hand a chart of the Southern Hemisphere, on the same projection; which will be applied to use with much more exactness, than the present,---seeing the southern magnetic point is much nigher to the equator of the earth than the northern magnetic point; and consequently, the variation of the compass alters more in the southern hemisphere, in proportion to the distance run.

But if the smallness of the scale, or any combination of causes, should conspire to render these charts in any degree imperfect; these objections will probably be all overcome, in another new work, to be entitled, THE MAGNETIC ALMANAC, containing an universal set of tables, shewing what latitude and variation correspond with any part of any meridian; and made easy to the

most common capacity, without the trouble of measuring angles. This work has been some time preparing for the press; and will be the result of tens of thousands of calculations.



## C H A P. VIII.

### *Hints concerning the Cause of the Magnetic Variation.*

FINDING it now universally admitted, that two magnetic points, not diametrically opposite to each other, are sufficient to account for the variation in all the different parts of the earth, and to correspond with observation; there must, necessarily, be a cause for the needle having an universal direction towards these two magnetic points; and this cause must either be below the surface of the earth; or above the same. The celebrated Doctor Halley supposed the cause to be below the surface, and communicated by the earth:---but the northern magnetic point is found to move faster than the earth, from west to east, as will appear by the tables. And, as it is an axiom long established, that "No cause can give what it has not itself,"---it is left to the judgment of others, whether, or not, the earth can give a swifter motion, than it has itself, to a nucleus therein contained. With a view to experiments, I have made several trials to embark on a voyage to that part of Baffin's Bay, where the north point of the needle is attracted: hoping that some observations might be made, as well

to determine how nearly the variation could be ascertained, as to throw some light on this mysterious principle, in the expectation, that they might probably pave the way to other discoveries: and apprehending, likewise, there would be no difficulty in sailing to the northern magnetic point; because navigators have frequently sailed near five degrees further north, although on another side of the globe. I have also been induced to contemplate such an undertaking at this time, because this year began with very moderate weather, which continued for the most part, so very mild, that it is thought, by some accurate observers, to have been the most moderate winter during the memory of man; and therefore it was natural to conclude, firstly, that there was less ice made this winter, than commonly; secondly, that the less ice there is made in winter, the sooner it would melt in the spring; thirdly, that the sooner the ice should dissolve in the spring, the longer would be the ensuing summer in the northern regions.

These several conclusions caused me to strain every nerve, to perform the proposed voyage: but, as the publication of the present chart had been promised a considerable time, it was thought it could not, with propriety, be delayed any longer. The desire of making use of this favourable time to go abroad caused the work to be too much hurried: so that whatever may be the faults in the execution, it is hoped the many respectable subscribers, and others, will bestow upon it their usual candour, and give it a favourable reception; without suppo-

sing that the principles will be affected thereby. Hoping, on my part, that these labours will eventually prove useful to mankind; and, by lessening the dangers of the sea, that those brave and useful citizens who are employed on the watery element, may be secured from at least a *part* of the numerous casualties and distresses to which they are daily exposed in navigating the trackless ocean; and that I may thus become an humble instrument, in the hands of Providence, to prolong the lives of many of my fellow-men.



## C H A P. IX.

### *The Method of proving the Revolutions of the two Magnetic Points.*

IT may, perhaps, not be improper to add something concerning the manner in which the periods of the revolutions of the two magnetic points are proved: for this purpose, recourse has been had to actual observations of the magnetic variation, made at different times, in both hemispheres, at several places, the situations of which have probably been well determined.

1stly, In the beginning of the present year, 1790, the longitude of the northern magnetic point, as appears by the tables, is calculated to be  $80^{\circ}$  west; the southern magnetic point, in 1787, is found to be  $139^{\circ} 20'$  east; and the city of Philadelphia being in latitude  $39^{\circ} 56' 55''$  north, and longitude  $75^{\circ} 13' 30''$  west, all computed

from Greenwich ; the variation of the compass here is  $1^{\circ} 57'$  west ; a magnetic meridian drawn from one magnetic point to the other, through the city of Philadelphia, makes an angle with this meridian of  $1^{\circ} 57'$ , which is found to agree with the real fact.

2dly, In the year 1657, by the tables, the northern magnetic point is placed in  $167^{\circ} 39'$  east, and the southern one  $147^{\circ} 54'$  east from the same meridian. This year, the magnetic needle at Greenwich, or London, pointed due north ; and as the magnetic needle is always a tangent to the curve formed by the magnetic meridian, if this curve is drawn for the year 1657, from one magnetic point to the other, through the city of London, the magnetic needle, at that time and place, will be a tangent to the curve ; then there will be no angle between the magnetic meridian, thus drawn, and the meridian of London.

3dly, In the year 1642, by the tables, the northern magnetic point was in  $154^{\circ} 59'$  east, and the southern one in  $148^{\circ} 54'$  east. In this year Tasman visited Van Diemen's Land, where it is reported by him, that the needle pointed due north. The situation of Adventure Bay, in Van Diemen's Land, being ascertained by Captain Cooke, in the year 1777, to be in  $43^{\circ} 21'$  south latitude, and  $147^{\circ} 25'$  east longitude : If a curve is drawn from one magnetic point to the other, through Adventure Bay, for the year 1642, this curve will coincide with the meridian of the earth at this bay, as was really the case, accor-

ding to Tasman's observation. This will, no doubt, be a satisfactory proof, to such who have leisure to try the experiments; but it may be supposed, by some, that as there was no variation this year at this place, the southern magnetic point must have been on the same meridian of the place where the magnetic needle points north: if the two magnetic points had been either on the same, or on opposite meridians, this must have been the case, according to the foregoing elements; but although they were within  $6^{\circ} 5'$  of the same meridian, this difference is sufficient to cause the line of no-variation not to be a meridian of the earth. A mistake of this sort I at first fell into; for on reading that there was no variation at London in the year 1657, I concluded that the northern magnetic point was just  $180^{\circ}$  from that place, without sufficiently considering, that the southern magnetic point was then neither on the same nor on opposite meridians; which caused an error in the revolution of the northern magnetic point, which now stands rectified in the present chapter: But if, by future observations, the period of either should be found not quite so exact as the length of a year, this, it is hoped, will be pardonable, seeing the precise length of a year has not been long determined, notwithstanding the many volumes of astronomical observations during so many centuries. Thus, having sufficient data to prove nearly in what parts of their orbits the magnetic points were in former times, the next thing will be to try how near the periods will agree with the tables of the two magnetic points. I shall treat first of the periodical and sidereal re-

volution of the northern one. In the beginning of this present year, 1790, we find, by calculation, that the northern magnetic point is  $80^{\circ}$  west; and in 1657 it was  $167^{\circ} 39'$  east from Greenwich, we have  $80^{\circ} + 167^{\circ} 39' = 247^{\circ} 39'$ ; then if we take the number of degrees round the earth  $360^{\circ} - 247^{\circ} 39' = 112^{\circ} 21'$ . Also *Anno Dom.*  $1790 - 1657 = 133$  years; then as  $112^{\circ} 21'$  :  $360^{\circ} :: 133^y : 426^y 77^d 9^h 54'$ . Then for the sederal revolution of the northern magnetic point, As  $426^y 77^d 9^h 54' : 360^{\circ} :: 23^h 56' 4'' : 8'' 18''' 9'''$  then we take the length of a sederal day,  $23^h 56' 4'' - 8'' 18''' 9''' = 23^h 55' 55'' 41''' 51'''$ ; this will be the sederal revolution required.

Secondly, for the periodical and sederal revolutions of the southern magnetic point. It is found, by calculation, from the observations of Capt. Cooke, in the southern hemisphere, in the year 1777, that the southern magnetic point was in even numbers  $140^{\circ}$  east longitude from Greenwich; and by Tasman's observation, in the year 1642, a like calculation is made, by which the southern magnetic point is found to be in about  $148^{\circ} 54' 9'' 27'''$  east, then we have  $148^{\circ} 54' 9'' 27''' - 140^{\circ} = 8^{\circ} 54' 9'' 27'''$ . Likewise  $1777 - 1642 = 135$  years; then as  $8^{\circ} 54' 9'' 27''' : 360^{\circ} :: 135^y : 5459$  years for the periodical revolution of the southern magnetic point. And for the sederal revolution of the southern magnetic point, we have the following proportion, viz. As  $5459^y = 172,269,335,460'' : 360^{\circ} = 77,760,000''' :: 23^h 56' 4'' = 86164'' : 38'' + 23^h 56' 4'' = 23^h 56' 4'' 38'''$  for the sederal revolution of the southern magnetic point.

## C H A P. X.

*On the Magnetic Tides.*

BESIDES the ever memorable deluges of Noah, Ogyges, and Deucalion, we have innumerable other accounts of the waters of the ocean making less remarkable encroachments on the shores at particular times and places, and returning to their former bounds. If it were necessary, a multitude of instances might be produced ; though, were I only to hint at one twentieth part of those which might be enumerated, they would far exceed the proposed bounds of the present work. Among the writings of the antient Romans, some accounts of this sort stand recorded in Ovid's Metamorphoses,

“ *I've seen the solid earth transform'd to sea,*  
 “ *And water also turn to solid land,*  
 “ *Fishes' shells lie distant from the ocean,*  
 “ *And rusty anchors on the tops of mountains!* ”

And Horace sings, that

“ *Fishes swam in bushy groves,*  
 “ *Once the well known perch of doves.*

The author of the History of the Earth and Animated Nature gives many instances confirming the same opinion, and adds, that the seas being thus seen to give and take away lands at pleasure, is, without question, one of the most extraordinary considerations in all natural history. In some places, he says, it is seen to obtain the superiority by slow and certain approaches ; or to burst in at once, and overwhelm all things

in undistinguished destruction ; in other places it departs from its shores, and where its waters have been known to rage, it leaves fields which soon become covered with the most beautiful verdure ; and in another place, “ that all this is wonderful ; and perhaps, instead of attempting to enquire after the cause, which has hitherto been inscrutable, it will best become us to rest satisfied with admiration.” I have taken some pains in making a collection of all the accounts of this sort within my reach, and find that the low countries, the United Netherlands in particular, have often been overflowed : I shall at present select only three of the last which have happened in that champaign country. The first of the three was about the year of our Lord 570, when Turonens says, that even the people of part of France were almost swallowed up by inundations ; that Italy also suffered prodigiously, and the whole wall of Lyons was thrown down.

Secondly ; Henry the first, of England, was born in the year 1068, and in his time there happened a mighty inundation, which extended to Flanders ; whereby a great part of that country was irrecoverably lost, and many of the poor distressed people, being bereft of their habitations, came over to England ; King Henry, taking compassion of their distrest condition, and also considering that they might be beneficial to his subjects, by instructing them in manufactures, he first settled them about Carlisle, and afterwards removed them into South Wales, where many of their posterity are reported by the celebrated Ray to be remaining in his time.

About this time also, a large estate, or island, the patrimony of Earl Goodwin, containing about 4000 acres, was overflowed by the ocean, and was afterwards called the Goodwin sands.

The last inundation of note which happened in Holland, was in the year 1446, when the sea gradually swelled, until it broke in at Dordt, and drowned one hundred thousand persons, and a greater number about Dullart: two or three hundred villages are declared, by Ray, to have been laid under water, leaving the tops of steeples and towers visible when the tide was out.

If we only contemplate the time between these former inundations, and conceive that what has happened heretofore may also come about again, may not we then, in the approaching century, at the same place, expect the like event?

After collecting various accounts of inundations which have happened in different parts of the world, and in different ages, and after their arrangement in chronological order, there is found a very remarkable agreement between them and the periods of revolution of the magnetic points. Hence, from a variety of deductions, the following conclusions are drawn.

1st. That as the periodical revolution of the northern magnetic point is in even numbers, about 426 years, whenever this alone comes on the meridian of any place, the waters of the ocean gradually swell to such a degree, as to overflow all low flat lands near its borders, which may be termed a *magnetic tide*.

2d. That as the periodical revolution of the Southern magnetic point is about 5,429 years, when the two magnetic points are in conjunction, the ocean swells to such a degree, as gradually to cover the high grounds, which may be termed a *magnetic spring tide*.

3. That at the times of the deluge of Noah, of Ogyges, and Deucalion, the two magnetic points, from their rate of revolution, were both near the meridian of those places where they happened respectively, and never since.

According to the best accounts, Noah's deluge was 2349 years before the birth of Christ, and Deucalion's deluge 1500 years before the same period. Then  $2349 - 1500 = 849 - 426 = 423$ ; and as the period of the northern magnetic point is about 426, these two deluges make within three years of two revolutions of the northern magnetic point. But the famous deluge of Ogyges happened between that of Noah and Deucalion. Ogyges was King of the Thebans, or, as some say, of Ogygia and Acte, afterwards Boeotia and Attica; he is recorded to have been the first founder of Thebes and Eleusin: some affirm that he perished with all his subjects 1796 years before Christ. In Ray's Physico Theological discourses, the deluge of Ogyges is said to have laid waste the country where it happened, almost two hundred years. I therefore suspect the time commonly allowed for that event is the time in which the waters abated, otherwise there would have been so little time between the deluges of Ogyges and Deucalion as not to distin-

guish them apart. The northern magnetic point must have been near the meridian of Athens, in Greece, at the deluge of Noah, according to its rate of revolution. Athens is  $24^{\circ}$  east longitude from Greenwich, and the northern magnetic point in 1790 is  $80^{\circ}$  west from the same meridian. We have  $80^{\circ} + 24^{\circ} = 104^{\circ}$ ; then round the earth is  $360^{\circ} - 104^{\circ} = 256^{\circ}$ ; likewise  $360^{\circ} \times 9$  revolutions  $= 3240^{\circ} + 256^{\circ} = 3496^{\circ}$ . Also Noah's deluge before Christ  $2349 + 1790 = 4139$ ; then as  $4139^y : 3496^{\circ} :: 1^y : 50' 40'' 44'''$  for its annual rate, which is found to agree with the tables to a minute.

Then, in order to try the agreement of the southern magnetic point, according to its rate of revolution it must have been, at the beginning of the deluge of Ogyges, near the meridian of Athens,  $24^{\circ}$  east longitude from Greenwich, and in 1777 it was  $140^{\circ}$  east by calculation and the tables; We have  $140 - 24 = 116$ , and the degrees round the globe  $360^{\circ} - 116^{\circ} = 244^{\circ}$  for the number run since the deluge of Ogyges. Then from the beginning of this deluge, before Christ,  $1923^y + 1777 = 3700$  years; then as  $244^{\circ} : 3700^y :: 360^{\circ} : 5459$  years, which agrees exactly with the tables and calculation in the last chapter, and I hope none will imagine an inconsistency with the dignity of the Deity, in acting by secondary causes in this case, as well as many others.

Diodorus Siculus, in his fifth book, gives an antient story, current among the Samothracians, that before any other floods recorded in history,

there was a very great deluge that overflowed a good part of the coast of Asia, and the lower grounds of its islands, when the Euxine sea first broke open the Thracian Bosphorus and Hellespont, and drowned all the adjacent countries.

Many of the moderns seem to think that the account of the great island of Atlantis, mentioned by the antients, is not altogether fabulous, and that America agrees to the description thereof; it is reported to have sunk under water, at a time answerable to the two magnetic points being in conjunction on this side of the world. The most distinct account of this extensive country is mentioned in the Timaeus of Plato, according to the following abridgement. The Atlantis was a large island in the Western Ocean, situated before or opposite to the Straits of Gades (or Cadiz, near Gibraltar.) Out of this island there was an easy passage into some others, which lay near a large continent exceeding in greatness all Europe and Asia. Neptune settled in this island, (from whose son Atlas its name was derived) and divided it among his ten sons. To the youngest fell the extremity of the island called Gadir, which, in the language of the country, signifies fertile, or abundant in sheep. At length, the island sunk under water, and for a long time afterwards the sea thereabouts was full of rocks and shelves.

As the isthmus of Darien is so very narrow, perhaps South America itself was the island of Atlantis, and North-America nothing less than

that great continent described by Plato. It is true that petrified sea shells are often found in layers on high ground, and the natives of this country have a tradition of its being overflowed. Lewis Evans, in a note in his first map of the American colonies, declares, we have glaring marks of a deluge in America of a more recent date than those of the old world. Nay, Thomas Jefferson, Esq; the Secretary of State, in his notes on Virginia, and Charles Thomson, Esq; late Secretary of Congress, in an appendix thereto, both give us very pertinent and entertaining remarks on this subject. General Lincoln, likewise, in a letter to the President of the University of Cambridge, in Massachusetts, which is published in the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts, makes some ingenious observations pointing the same way. To these several valuable works I must beg leave to refer.

Since the Settlement of North-America, by Europeans, it is manifest that the sea has made considerable encroachments on the land ; on the eastern coast of this country a multitude of evidences are visible, which agree with this hypothesis ; as in Nova-Scotia the stumps of trees are seen twenty feet below the common high water mark. On the banks of Delaware river, lives a poor old illiterate man, who has distinguished the highest tide which has happened every year for many years, by a notch on a tree near the shore ; he has continued his observations, until his marks have mounted one above another in a surprising manner ; and some men are still living in Dela-

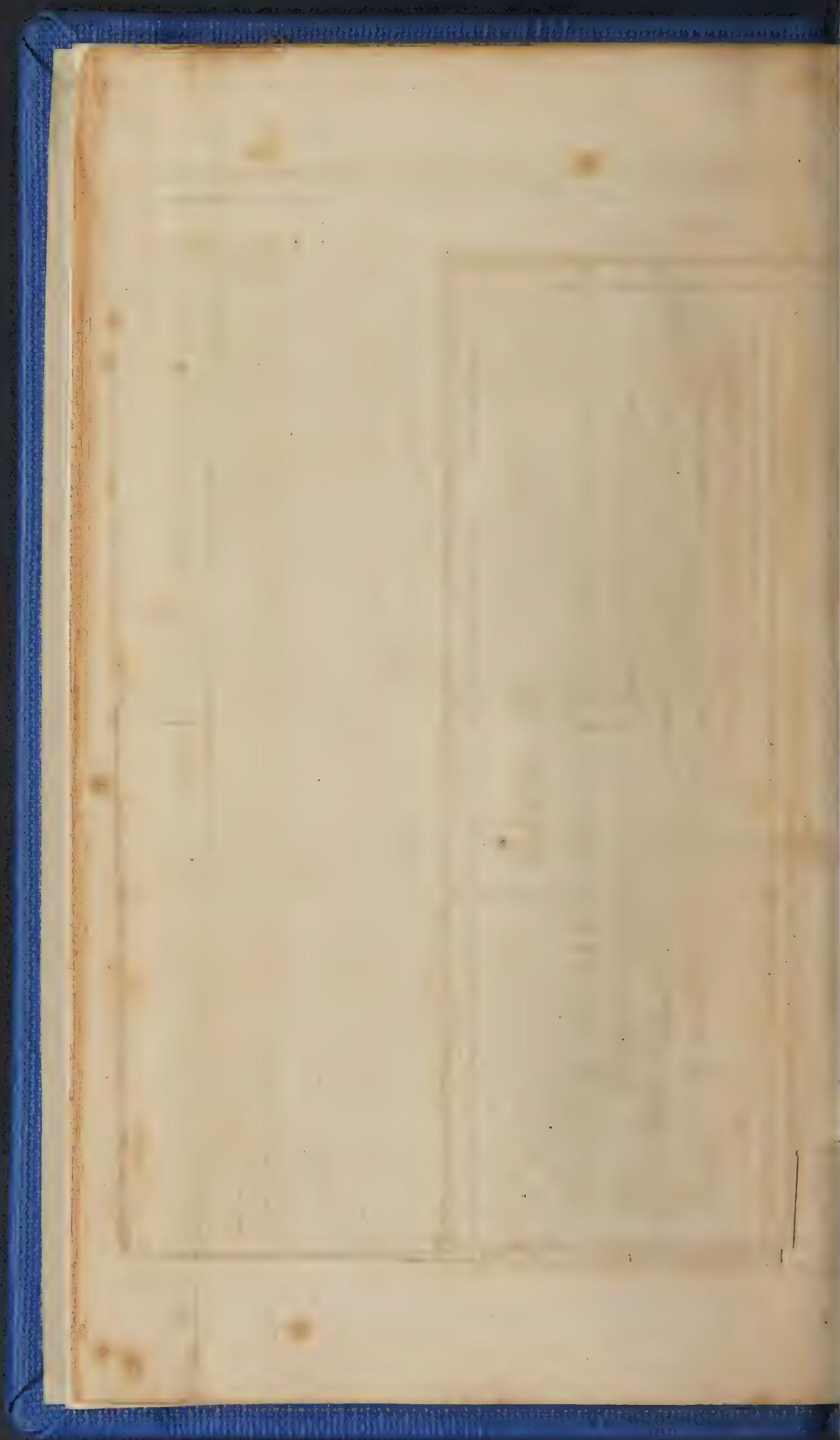
ware State, who have reaped wheat on grounds which are now converted to salt marsh. On Chesapeake Bay, when the lands were first surveyed, some of them were bounded by marked trees, which then stood on dry ground, and now their stumps stand under water; also, in some places, where orchards were planted near the shore, the waters have encroached to such a degree as to kill the fruit trees: at one place a burying-ground is now part dashed by the waves, which was once at a distance from the shore. In Capt. Bernard Romans's Natural History of Florida, vol. I. page 20, he describes a number of stumps which are only to be seen at low water: he believes them to be the ruins of ancient forests, on which the sea has made an encroachment.

# A Table

## OF THE PLACE OF THE NORTHERN MAGNETIC POINT,

For the beginning of each Year, from the time of its leaving the Meridian of Greenwich the last time (which was in the Year 1459) until its return to the same Meridian again, which will be in the Year 1884, including one full period, or 426 Years, 77 Days, 9 hours, or thereabouts, moving at the rate of  $50^{\circ} 40' 44''$  of Longitude in a Year.

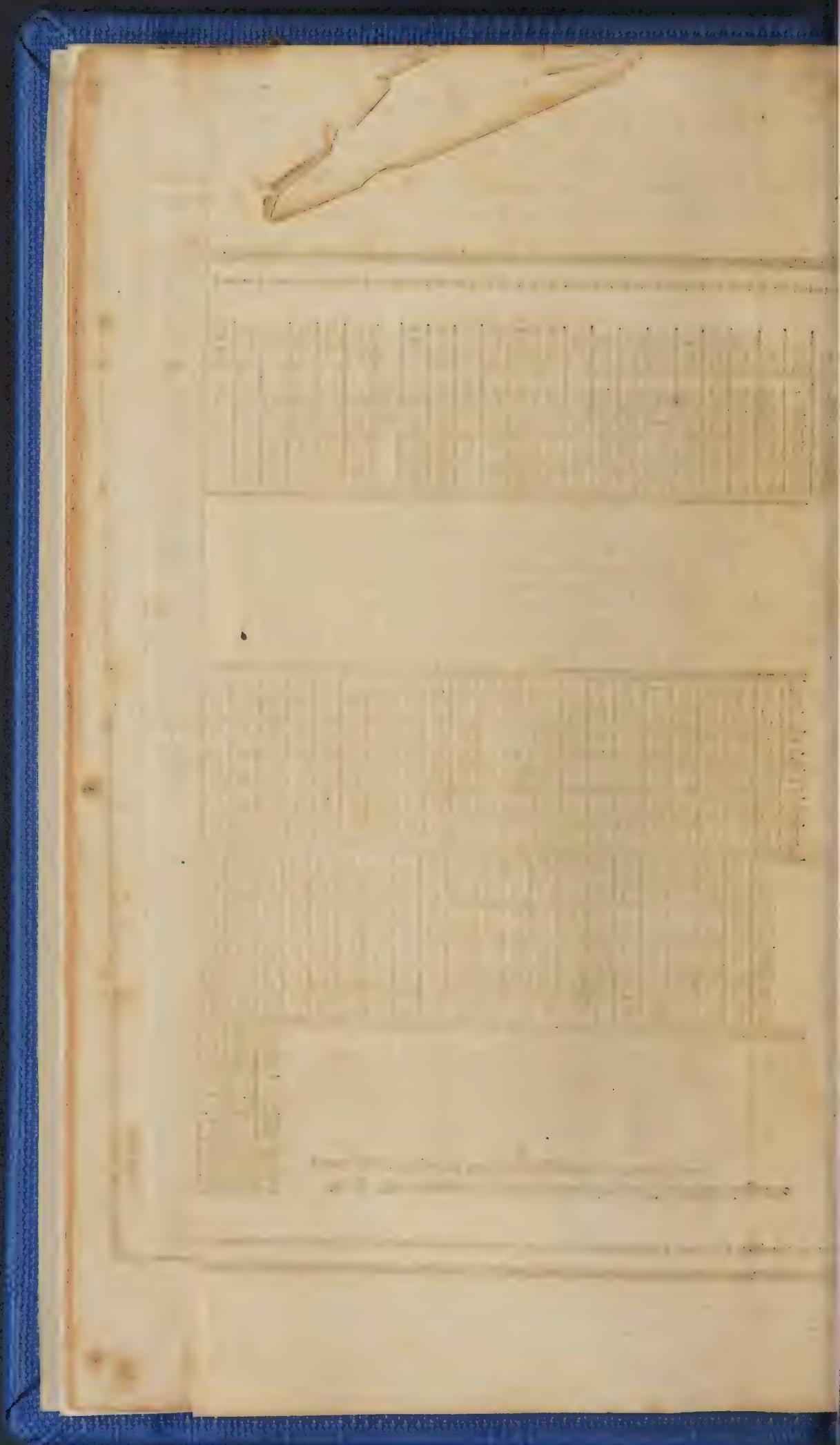
After Christ	East.	After Christ	East.	After Christ	East.	After Christ	Welt.	After Christ	Welt.	After Christ	Welt.
o	/	"	/	"	/	"	o	/	"	o	"
1459	025	1716	1514	461	523	3736	1570	941	1028	40	1625
1460	115	158100	1515	474	4318	20	1571	950	1019	24	1626
1461	2106	38144	1516	483	35159	04	1572	951	1020	08	1627
1462	215719	128	1517	492	34146	52	1573	952	1021	28	1628
1463	314810012	1518	5015	2032	1574	952	1021	56	1629	144612156	16
1464	41381	40156	1519	51061	0116	1575	953	1241	20	1630	144512240
1465	512912140	1520	51561	42100	1576	954	1443104	16	1631	145420224	
1466	6120102124	1521	52147	22144	1577	10010512348	16	1632	14613214408		
1467	710142108	1522	53128	03128	1578	10010510432	16	1633	14712312452		
1468	810123152	1523	54128	4412	1579	10110461451	16	1634	148124152		
1469	91210426	1524	5511912415	538	10212712600	16	1635	1491044620			
1470	914214520	1525	5610105140	1581	10212810600	16	1636	15012512704			
1471	10122126104	1526	5710104124	1582	1021281314728	16	1637	151120120748			
1472	11124126148	1527	58112127108	1583	1021281212812	16	1638	15113614832			
1472	121471321	1528	58142107152	1584	1106106008156	16	1639	15212712916			
1474	13125128161	1529	591221421361	1585	10615014040	16	1640	1531181000			
1475	14126106104	1530	601221201201	1586	11071412024	16	1641	15410815044			
1476	14146140144	1531	6111410104	1587	1083211108	16	1642	15451093128			
1477	15127130128	1532	6204150481	1588	10912215152	16	1643	15515012121			
1478	16128111121	1533	62515171321	1589	11311212226	16	1644	15640515256			
1479	17129111156	1534	631221201201	1590	1110111041926	16	1645	1571313240			
1480	18100122156	1535	64120151300	1591	11111111111	16	1646	15811611448			
1481	19110122152	1536	65127132144	1592	1112112452418	16	1647	15911144748			
1482	20119122152128	1537	66118112125	1593	11121615131	16	1648	16011215552			
1483	2119122152128	1538	67119135128	1594	11121615131	16	1649	1611163371236			
1484	21014124152	1539	68119135128	1595	11121615131	16	1650	16211641615932			
1485	21014124152	1540	69119135128	1596	11121615131	16	1651	1631163371236			
1486	21014124152	1541	70119135128	1597	11121615131	16	1652	16416211814			
1487	21014124152	1542	71119135128	1598	11121615131	16	1653	1651641615932			
1488	21014124152	1543	72119135128	1599	11121615131	16	1654	166150174016			
1489	21014124152	1544	73119135128	1600	11121615131	16	1655	16715812100			
1490	21014124152	1545	74119135128	1601	11121615131	16	1656	16815615812100			
1491	21014124152	1546	75119135128	1602	11121615131	16	1657	1691163371236			
1492	21014124152	1547	76119135128	1603	11121615131	16	1658	17011641615932			
1493	21014124152	1548	77119135128	1604	11121615131	16	1659	171115107108			
1494	21014124152	1549	78119135128	1605	11121615131	16	1660	1721163371236			
1495	21014124152	1550	79119135128	1606	11121615131	16	1661	17311641615932			
1496	21014124152	1551	78119135128	1607	11121615131	16	1662	1741251820			
1497	21014124152	1552	79119135128	1608	11121615131	16	1663	1751163371236			
1498	21014124152	1553	79119135128	1609	11121615131	16	1664	17611641615932			
1499	21014124152	1554	80119135128	1610	11121615131	16	1665	1771165107406			
1500	21014124152	1555	81119135128	1611	11121615131	16	1666	178116615017406			
1501	21014124152	1556	82119135128	1612	11121615131	16	16671791291244				
1502	21014124152	1557	83119135128	1613	11121615131	16	1668	17111671511244			
1503	21014124152	1558	84119135128	1614	11121615131	16	1669	17211681511244			
1504	21014124152	1559	85119135128	1615	11121615131	16	1670	17311691511244			
1505	21014124152	1560	86119135128	1616	11121615131	16	1671	174116102140			
1506	21014124152	1561	87119135128	1617	11121615131	16	1672	17511621140			
1507	21014124152	1562	88119135128	1618	11121615131	16	1673	17611631140			
1508	21014124152	1563	89119135128	1619	11121615131	16	1674	17711641140			
1509	21014124152	1564	90119135128	1620	11121615131	16	1675	17811651140			
1510	21014124152	1565	9119135128	1621	11121615131	16	1676	17911661140			
1511	21014124152	1566	92119135128	1622	11121615131	16	1677	18011671140			
1512	21014124152	1567	93119135128	1623	11121615131	16	1678	1811681140			
1513	21014124152	1568	94119135128	1624	11121615131	16	1679	1821691140			
1514	21014124152	1569	95119135128	1625	11121615131	16	1680	1831701140			
1515	21014124152	1570	96119135128	1626	11121615131	16	1681	1841711140			
1516	21014124152	1571	97119135128	1627	11121615131	16	1682	1851721140			
1517	21014124152	1572	98119135128	1628	11121615131	16	1683	1861731140			
1518	21014124152	1573	99119135128	1629	11121615131	16	1684	1871741140			
1519	21014124152	1574	100119135128	1630	11121615131	16	1685	1881751140			
1520	21014124152	1575	101119135128	1631	11121615131	16	1686	1891761140			
1521	21014124152	1576	102119135128</td								



## A Table

OF THE PLACE OF THE SOUTHERN MAGNETIC POINT,  
From within a Century of the time of the Creation (according to the Mosaic account)  
until the year of our Lord 3877, including a period of 7800 Years, as it is found to  
change its place, at the rate of  $6^{\circ} 35' 40''$   $32'''$  in a hundred Years, the Longitude  
computed from the Meridian of Greenwich,

Before Christ	East.					West.					After Christ	East.					West.					After Christ					
	o	'	"	'''	/	o	'	"	'''	/		o	'	"	'''	/	o	'	"	'''	/						
392	1	55	33	30	40	77	107	52	30	40	1482	159	27	14	41	1082	146	15	53	19	1877	133	24	19	40		
382	1	49	17	50	58	177	114	29	11	12	1487	159	67	27	40	1687	145	56	60	10	1977	122	48	39	02		
372	1	42	42	09	36	277	121	04	51	44	1492	158	47	40	39	1692	145	36	19	17	2077	120	21	38	30		
362	1	36	06	29	04	377	12	71	40	22	1497	158	27	53	38	1097	145	16	22	16	2177	113	37	17	58		
352	1	29	30	48	32	477	134	16	12	48	1502	15	08	06	37	1702	144	56	45	15	2277	107	01	37	26		
342	1	22	55	08	00	577	140	51	53	2	1507	157	48	19	36	1707	144	36	58	14	2377	100	25	56	54		
332	1	16	19	27	28	677	147	27	32	52	1512	157	28	32	35	1712	144	17	11	13	2477	93	50	10	22		
322	1	09	43	46	56	777	154	03	14	24	1517	157	08	45	34	1717	143	57	24	12	2577	87	14	35	50		
312	1	03	08	06	24	877	160	38	54	56	1522	150	48	58	33	1722	143	37	37	11	2677	80	28	45	18		
302	1	06	32	25	52	977	167	14	35	28	1527	156	29	11	32	1727	14	17	50	10	2777	74	03	14	46		
292	1	09	56	45	20	1077	172	50	16	00	1532	156	09	24	31	1732	142	58	03	09	2877	67	27	34	14		
282	1	03	21	04	48	1177	179	34	03	28	1537	155	49	37	30	1737	142	38	16	08	2977	66	31	53	42		
272	1	01	45	24	16	1277	172	58	22	46	1542	155	29	15	29	1742	142	18	29	07	3077	54	16	13	10		
262	1	00	09	43	44	1277	172	58	22	46	1547	155	00	10	28	1747	141	58	42	06	3177	47	40	21	38		
252	1	03	34	03	12	1277	172	58	22	46	1552	154	50	10	27	1752	141	38	55	05	3277	41	04	52	06		
242	1	06	58	22	40	1377	166	22	42	14	1557	154	30	29	26	1757	141	19	08	04	3377	34	29	51	24		
232	1	00	22	42	08	1477	159	47	01	42	1562	154	10	42	25	1762	140	59	21	03	3477	27	52	31	02		
222	1	03	47	01	35	212	37	11	21	04	1567	153	39	45	24	1767	149	39	34	02	3577	21	17	50	20		
212	1	07	11	21	04	2022	30	35	40	32	1572	153	31	08	23	1772	140	19	47	01	3677	14	42	09	58		
192	1	24	00	00	00	2223	43	47	01	35	22	1577	153	11	21	22	1777	140	00	00	00	3777	8	06	29	26	
182	1	17	24	19	28	1822	152	15	31	47	20	1582	152	15	1	34	21	1782	139	40	12	59	3877	130	48	54	
172	1	10	48	38	56	1592	152	12	00	19	1587	152	13	1	47	20	1787	139	20	25	58						
162	1	04	12	58	24	1597	151	52	13	18	1592	151	52	13	18	1792	139	00	38	57							
	West.																										
1522	02	22	42	08		1602	151	32	26	17	1802	138	21	04	55		1607	151	12	39	16	1807	138	01	17	54	
1423	08	58	22	40		1612	150	52	52	15	1812	137	41	34	53		1617	150	33	05	14	1817	137	41	34	53	
1323	1	51	34	03	12	1617	150	33	05	14	1817	137	21	43	52		1622	150	13	18	13	1822	137	01	56	51	
1223	1	22	09	43	44	1622	150	13	18	13	1822	137	01	56	51		1627	149	33	43	29	1832	136	22	22	49	
1123	1	28	45	24	16	1632	149	33	43	29	1837	136	02	35	48		1637	149	13	56	28	1842	135	42	48	47	
1023	1	35	21	04	48	1647	148	34	22	26	1847	135	23	01	46		1657	148	14	35	25	1852	135	03	14	45	
923	1	41	56	45	20	1652	148	14	35	25	1857	135	03	14	45		1657	147	54	48	27	1857	134	21	27	44	
823	1	48	32	25	52	1662	147	54	09	27	1862	134	23	40	43		1662	147	35	01	23	1867	134	03	53	42	
723	1	55	08	06	24	1667	147	55	27	21	1867	134	42	48	47		1672	146	55	27	21	1872	133	44	06	41	
623	1	61	43	46	15	1672	146	55	27	21	1872	133	44	06	41		1672	146	15	14	22	1872	133	44	06	41	
523	1	68	19	27	28	1677	146	15	14	22	1877	133	44	06	41		1677	146	09	35	42	1877	133	44	06	41	
423	1	74	55	08	00	1682	146	09	35	42	1882	132	21	22	49		1682	146	09	35	42	1882	132	21	22	49	
323	1	81	31	48	32	1687	146	09	29	04	1887	132	21	22	49		1687	146	09	29	04	1887	132	21	22	49	
223	1	88	06	29	04	1692	146	09	29	04	1892	132	21	22	49		1692	146	09	29	04	1892	132	21	22	49	
123	1	94	42	09	35	1697	146	09	29	04	1897	132	21	22	49		1697	146	09	29	04	1897	132	21	22	49	



## A P P E N D I X.

Having received a considerable number of letters on the subject of the foregoing tract, from persons of eminence; for brevity's sake, only a few are inserted.



### LETTER I.

*From the American Minister and Plenipotentiary at the Court of France.*

PARIS, AUGUST 8th, 1787.

SIR,

I HAVE duly received your favour of June 6th, and immediately communicated its contents to a member of the Academy.\* He told me they had received the other copy of your memorial, which you mention to have sent through another channel; that your ideas were not conveyed so explicitly as to enable them to decide *finally* on their merit; but that they had made an entry on their Journals, to preserve to you the claim to the *original* idea. As far as we can conjecture it here, we imagine you make a table of variations of the needle, for all the different meridians whatever. To apply this table to use, in a voyage between America and Europe,—suppose the variation to increase a degree in every 160 miles,—two difficulties occur: 1st, a ready and accurate method of finding the variation of the place; 2d, an instrument, so perfect as that (though the degree on it shall represent 160 miles) it shall give the parts of the degree, so minutely as to answer the purposes of the navigator. The variation of the needle at Paris actually is 21° West. I make no doubt but you have provided against the doubts entertained here; and I shall be happy that our country may have the honour of furnishing the old world, what it has so long sought in vain. I am, with much respect,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS JEFFERSON,

MR. JOHN CHURCHMAN, Philadelphia.

\* *The Royal Academy of Sciences.*



### LETTER II.

*From Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. President of the Royal Society of London.*

SOHO SQUARE, SEPT. 1st, 1787.

SIR,

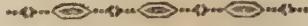
I HAVE received your ingenious letter relative to the variation of the needle, and take the liberty of advising you to pursue, with diligence, a subject on which it appears to me you have made a progress, sufficient to authorize a reasonable hope, that science will derive real increase from your labours.

The Royal Society having lately removed into a new house, the first series of observations relative to the variation is only now in its course. I cannot therefore tell you with the utmost precision what the variation is there; our instrument at present gives  $23^{\circ} 8'$  West, which probably is sufficiently exact for your purpose: presently, when the instrument is moved, we shall find if the magnetism of the building has any material effect upon it, of which, if it has, I shall with pleasure inform you. I am, Sir,

Your obedient and most humble servant,

JOS: BANKS.

MR. JOHN CHURCHMAN.



### LETTER III.

*From the House of Delegates in Maryland, dated at Annapolis, in December, 1787.*

SIR,

I command, by the Honourable House of Delegates, to return you their thanks, for your communication and explanation of your ideas, relative to the principles of magnetism, and their application in regulating the surveys of land; and I, with pleasure, return you the thanks of the House accordingly. I am, &c. &c.

THOMAS C. DEYE.  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.

To JOHN CHURCHMAN, Esq.



### LETTER IV.

*From Sir H. Parker, Bart. Secretary to the Board of Longitude in Great-Britain.*

ADMIRALTY, 20th DEC. 1787.

SIR,

I HAD the honour, at the meeting of the Commissioners of Longitude, the 8th of this month, to lay before them the memorial you some time since transmitted to me, stating, that you have discovered certain fixed principles in magnetism, which will ascertain, to a great precision, the longitude of places in all parts of the globe, &c.: and I am directed to acquaint you, the Board have the subject matter of your said memorial under consideration and will take an early opportunity of giving you their sentiments upon what you have submitted to them. I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

H. PARKER, Sec'y to the  
Commissioners of Longitude.

MR. JOHN CHURCHMAN,  
Philadelphia.



### LETTER V.

*An extract of one, from Charles Blagden, M. D. Secretary to the Royal Society of London.*

LONDON, JULY 6, 1789.

SIR,

I HAVE received your letter, with the enclosed address,\* and presented the letter to the Royal Society, who desired their thanks to be returned for the same. It is contrary to the rules of the Society to read before them

\* An address to the members of the different learned societies, shewing the deficiencies in professor Euler's memoir on this subject, see American Museum for May 1789.

printed papers, or such as are known to have been communicated to other learned bodies. The rumour of Sir Joseph Banks's death was without foundation: he is here in good health, and informs me, that your three letters<sup>t</sup> are in his possession.

<sup>+</sup> Three letters on other subjects, duplicates of which were addressed to Comte de Caffier, Director of the Royal Observatory at Paris.



LETTER VI.

*From the American Minister and Plenipotentiary at the Court of France.*

PARIS, SEPT. 18th, 1789.

SIR,

I HAVE duly received your favour of the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. I had before received, and answered, the first letter you wrote me; but the second, which you mention to have written, never came to hand. I have sent to the Secretary of the Academy of Sciences the † printed paper enclosed in your last. I asked at the same time the authenticated § copy, which you desired, of the entry on their Journals, relative to your former communications to them. This I now enclose to you, as I received it from the Marquis de Condorcet, their Secretary. Being about to leave this country, on a visit to my own, I shall be in hopes of perhaps meeting you some where in my tour; and of expressing to you, in person, my readiness, on all occasions, to be useful to you, in the business now in hand, and the sentiments of esteem with which I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

THO. JEFFERSON.

**MR. CHURCHMAN.**

§ Copy of the entry on the Journals of the Royal Academy of Sciences above mentioned:

“ La lettre de M. Churchman, de Philadelphie, sur la variation de l'aimant,  
“ à été lue à l'Academie des Sciences de Paris, le 16 Juin, 1787.

" Je certifie cet extrait conforme aux registres de l'Academie à Paris,  
" le 25 Septembre, 1789.

## "LE MARQUIS DE CONDORCET."



## LETTER VII.

*From Nicholas Van Staphorst, Esq; of Holland*

Mr. JOHN CHURCHMAN, in Philadelphia,

AMSTERDAM, 22d OCTOBER, 1789.

SIR,

I RECEIVED, in due time, your very esteemed favour of 17th April, with the printed address † mentioned therein, which I with great pleasure laid before my worthy friend, Professor Van Swinden, whose observa-

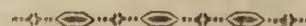
An address to the members of the different learned societies, shewing the deficiencies in professor Euler's memoir on this subject, see American Museum for May 1789.

G

tions thereon you will have in the enclosed remarks from him, in French and English. The works he alludes to, I forward in a packet, by this conveyance, to Mr. George Mead, of your city, to be delivered to you; and sincerely wishing they may prove to your satisfaction. I am, with every disposition to render you the useful or agreeable offices in my power, very truly, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

NICHOLAS VAN STAPHORST,



### LETTER VIII.

Being an extract of one from J. H. Van Swinden, Professeur de Philosophie dans l'Université de Franeker, Associé étranger de la Société Royal de Médecine de Paris, Membre des Académies de Bruxelles & de Bavière; des Sociétés de Haarlem & d' Utrecht ; Membre Consultant de la Société de Physique expérimentale de Rotterdam, & de la Société de Médecine de la Haye : Correspondant des Académies Royales de Paris & de Turin.

*To determine the longitude by observations on declination, is a great undertaking, and worthy of all our encomiums. Navigators are most interested in its good success. This success depends, I think, upon the complete solution of these two very interesting problems: first, to determine by theory what must be, at a given time, the declination of the magnetic needle, for every point of the globe, or for every place, whose longitude and latitude are given; secondly, in a place whose altitude is given, the declination at a certain time being known, to conclude its longitude by comparing the said observation with the theory.*

*The first problem consists of two parties, the one purely mathematical, the other physico-mathematical, because it is a question to draw from the observations, the chief data upon which the real calculations are to be founded.*

*The main part of observations made at sea are deficient, not only because they are perhaps ill made, but because they are ill calculated. I know certainly they commit a considerable error with respect to this on board of our East-Indiamen, of our merchantmen, and even on board of several of our men of war; namely: They take an observation of the sun at its rising or setting, the very moment its centre appears upon the horizon; then they compute its octave, or occasal amplitude, whence they deduce the declination. But when the sun's centre seems to be in the horizon, he is really 33° under it: and so the arch contained between the needle and the apparent place of the centre, is not the arch contained between the needle and the true centre, and this is more or less to the east or west, than is supposed in the calculation. This error, that could be so easily corrected, may amount sometimes to two degrees, being one while additional, another subtractive. By those means, the declination seamen put in their journals is always faulty, though their observation be right; I looked over a great quantity of journals, and I saw, what was a necessary consequence of what I said, that the declination by amplitude is always different from that by azimuth. And this, though any body might say it is of little consequence in practice, is, nevertheless, of great importance in theory, and for the laws that may be deduced from a series of observations of that kind.*

*Report of a Committee of Congress, which was published in the Journal.*

In the House of Representatives of the United States,  
Monday, 20th April, 1789.

M R. Tucker reported, from the Committee to whom was referred the petitions of John Churchman and \* David Ramsay,—that the Committee had, according to order, had the said petitions under their consideration, and agreed to report thereupon; which he delivered in at the Clerk's table, where the same was twice read, and debated by clauses, the first clause, in the words following,—to wit,

" The Committee have conferred with Mr. Churchman, and find he has made many calculations, which tend to establish his position, that there are two magnetic points, which give direction to the needle. That, upon this doctrine, he has endeavoured to ascertain, from a given latitude, and a given variation, what must be the longitude of the place; and, having applied his principles to many instances in Cooke's Voyages, has found the result to correspond, with considerable accuracy, with the real facts, as far as they could be determined by the reckoning of the ship. That the object to which Mr. Churchman's labours are directed, is, confessedly, of very high importance; and his ideas on the subject appear to be ingenious. That, with a view of applying them to practice, he has contrived a map and a globe, whereby to shew the angles which are made by the intersection of the real and the magnetic meridians, in different parts of the earth. That he is also engaged in constructing tables, for determining the longitude at sea, upon magnetic principles. That the committee are of opinion, that such efforts deserve encouragement; and that a law should pass to secure to Mr. Churchman, for a term of years, the exclusive pecuniary emolument to be derived from the publication of these several inventions,"—was again read; and, on the question put thereupon, agreed to, by the House.

The second clause, in the words following,—to wit: " With respect to the voyage proposed by Mr. Churchman, to Baffin's Bay, the Committee are cautious of recommending, in the present deranged state of our finances, a precipitate adoption of a measure, which would be attended with considerable expence: But they are of opinion, that, at a future day, if Mr. Churchman's principles should be found to succeed in practice, it would be proper to give farther encouragement to his ingenuity,"—was again read; and, on a motion made, ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, ordered.—That a bill or bills be brought in, making a general provision for securing to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries; and that Mr Huntington, Mr. Cadwallader, and Mr. Contee, do prepare and bring in the same.

*Extract from the Journal.*

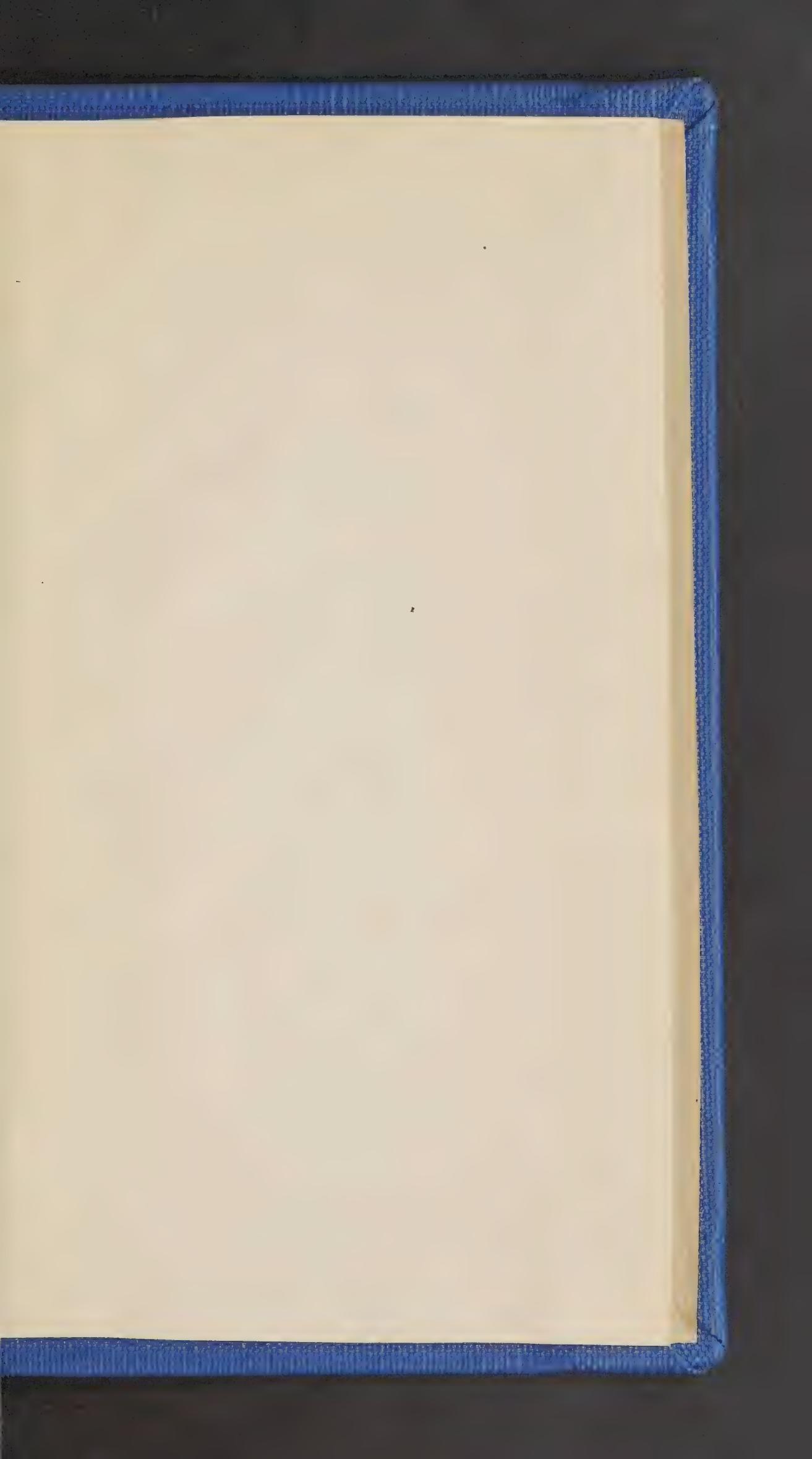
JOHN BECKLEY, CLERK.

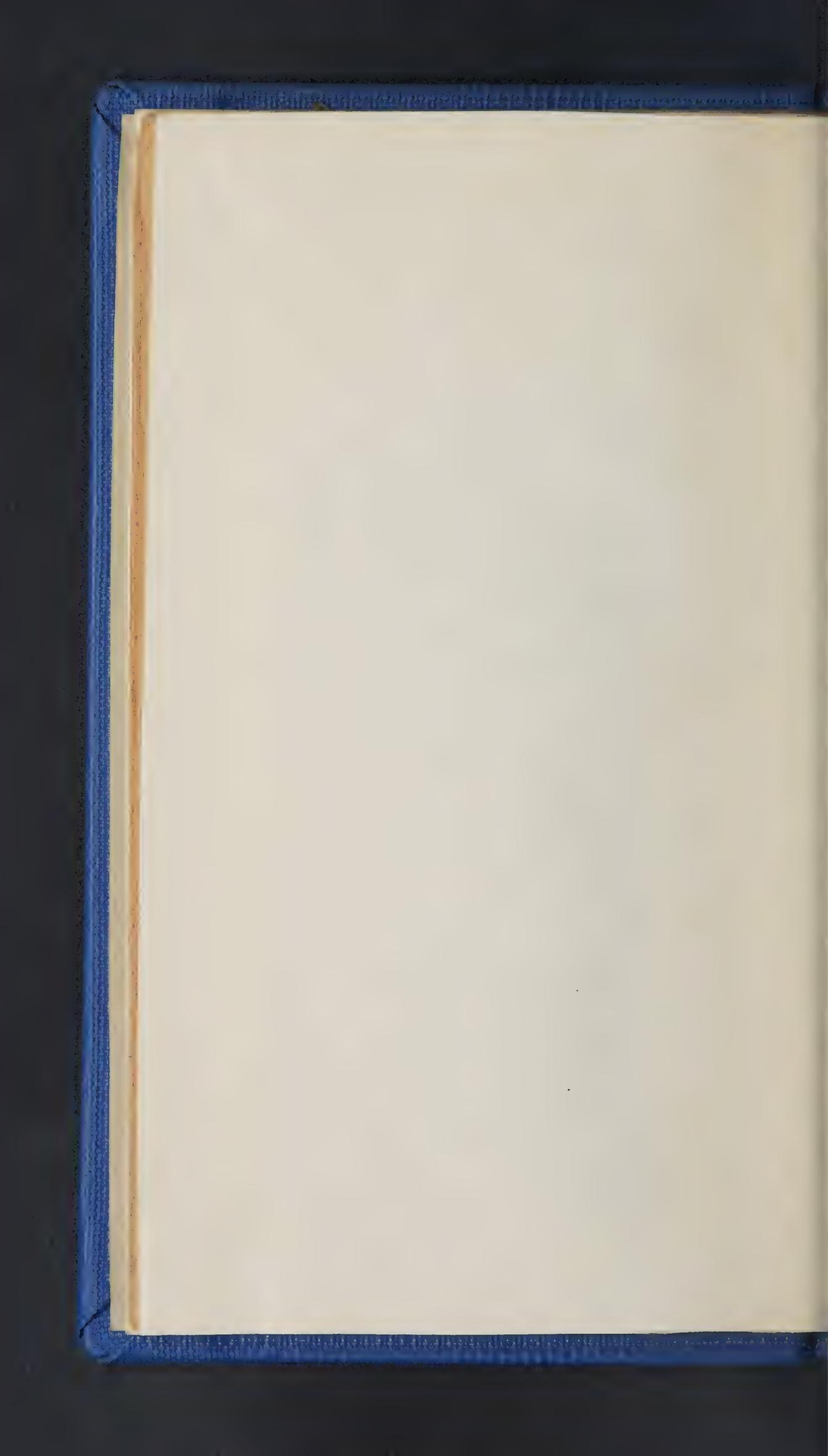
\* Dr. Ramsay's petition was concerning his history of the revolution.



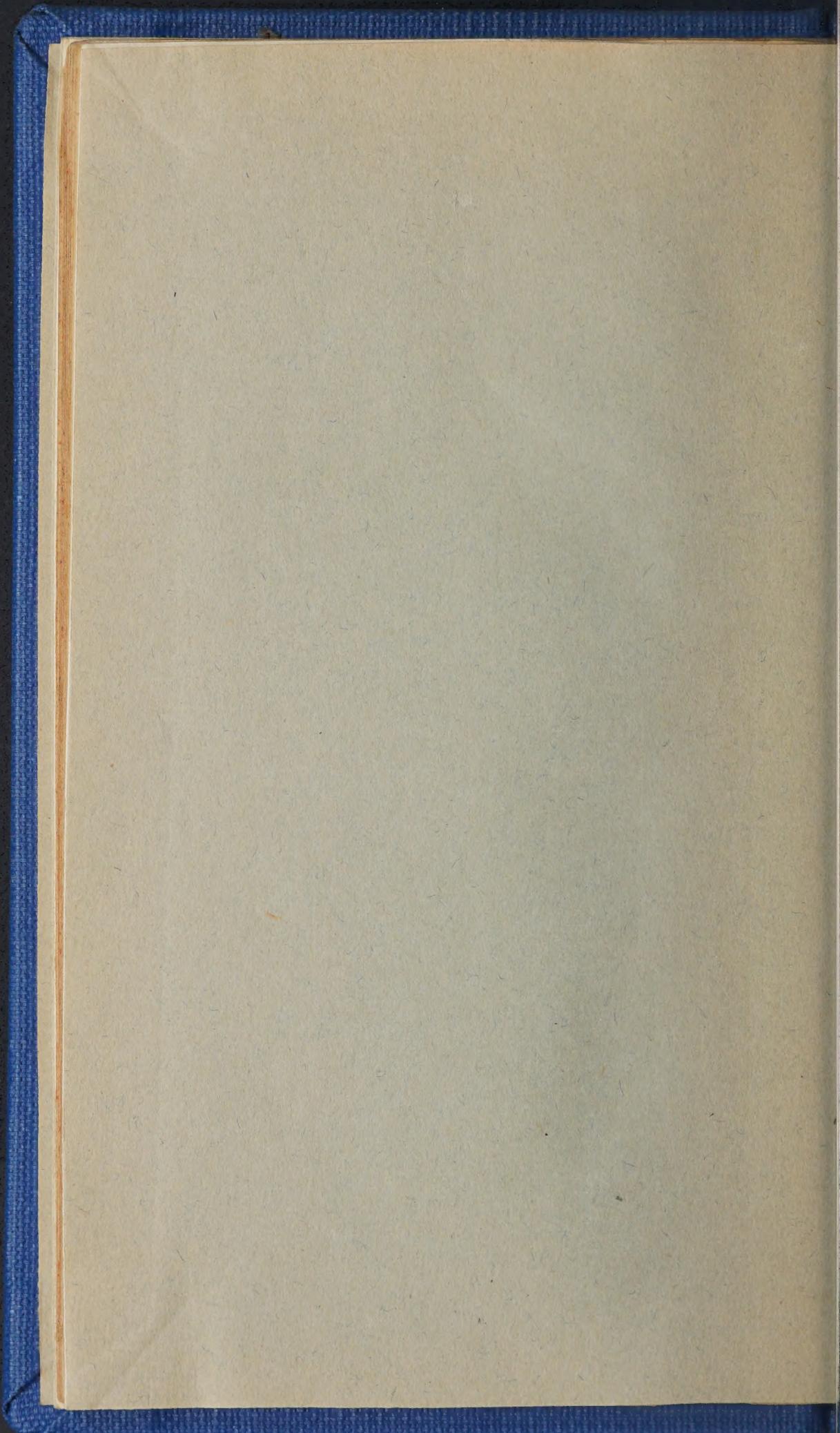
## ERRATA.

Page.	Line.					
14	13	for	plain			plane
15	26		48 <sup>II</sup> 50 <sup>III</sup>			41 <sup>II</sup> 51 <sup>III</sup>
17	29		Sumatria	read		Sumatra
19	24		distance			distances
25	24		magnetic			magnetic
28	15		axis			pointer axis
			a a table			a table









27081374

